

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A variable resolution decoder of the present invention decodes image data compressed with a compression method such as MPEG-2 supporting interlaced scanning. The decoder performs variable decoding and inverse quantization on the compressed image data and then checks a DCT mode of a frame, performs inverse discrete cosine transform in 4 by 8 pixels when the mode is a DCT mode, acquires image data of full resolution for interlaced scanning in a vertical direction, and thins the image data, thereby performing image reduction of the image data during decoding with field information maintained. The decoder comprises means for performing reduction in a DCT area for resolution of image data in a horizontal direction and means for performing reduction in a pixel area for resolution of image data in a vertical direction.

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